

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Evening Report

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THE MATTER IS NOW CLOSED

BOB GNEISER: "The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today refused to go along with the demand by Oregon's Senator Wayne Morse that CIA Director Richard Helms resign. Helms recently found himself in hot water over a letter he wrote praising a St. Louis newspaper editorial that was critical of Committee Chairman J.W. Fulbright.

"Today Helms went before that committee and admitted he had made a mistake."

HELMS: "I was just simply saying that it was a mistake to have signed this letter. I realize that it was a mistake which I regret, and I've apologized."

GNEISER: "Chairman Fulbright said later he accepts Helms' apology."

FULBRIGHT: "I thought his statement was a very forthright and honest statement. And he acknowledged that he'd made a mistake signing this letter, he explained the circumstances, which I think are understandable. And on the whole I think he -- he did an excellent job of explaining a mistake which any of us might make."

GNEISER: "As far as I'm concerned, said Fulbright, the matter is now closed."